

The DARPA Grand Challenge

Autonomous Robotic Ground Vehicles

Los Angeles – Las Vegas

March 13, 2004

www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge



in association with:



The Challenge

- Navigate 300 miles of rugged terrain between Los Angeles and Las Vegas
- Winner of \$1 million cash prize is first to complete course in prescribed time
- No drivers allowed – unmanned vehicles only

Leveraging American Ingenuity

- Foster development of autonomous robotic ground vehicles for the U.S. military
- Attract trailblazers and pioneers from a variety of fields to compete



In the News

Military Hopes \$1 Million Desert Race Will Lead to First Self-Guided Robot

"The Pentagon is sponsoring a Great Race with a \$1 million cash prize but none of the drivers will collect it - because nobody will be at the wheel."

-Associated Press

Pentagon Looks for Few Good Robotic Vehicles

"DARPA officials hope that some computer whiz kid, some science-fiction fanatic, some junkyard warrior or off-road enthusiast can come up with a way to navigate the 300-mile course in the Mojave desert that will be loaded with obstacles."

-Orange County Register

Pentagon Grand Challenge: \$1 Million to Builder of Robotic Vehicle

"The ground rules are simple: build a mobile robot that can travel on its own over roads and deserts, through gullies and waterways. The precise course between Los Angeles and Las Vegas will only be revealed hours before the race, on March 13, 2004."

-Voice of America

No Drivers Wanted in Race for \$1 Million

"The race, called the Grand Challenge, is the brainchild of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, the \$2-billion whiz-bang shop at the Pentagon that helped create the Internet, Stealth aircraft, "smart" bombs and the pilotless Predator plane."

-Los Angeles Times



Congressional Authority

"The Secretaries of the military departments and the heads of defense agencies may each carry out a program to award cash prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements...in support of the missions of the U.S. Department of Defense."

-National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (H.R. 4546, Sec. 2374b)

"It shall be a goal of the Armed Forces...that by 2015, one-third of the operational ground combat vehicles of the Armed Forces are unmanned."

-National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (S. 2549, Sec. 217)